



York County Lifts Open Burning Ban

Yorktown, April 18—Due to increased rainfall amounts, humidity changes, the greening of vegetation and improvements in other climatic conditions, the ban on open burning has been lifted. However, normal burning regulations for York County remain in effect.

--Open burning is permitted for the disposal of leaves located on the premises of private property by the residents of such property provided that the following conditions are met:

- Burning of leaves shall not be conducted closer than 250 feet from any occupied dwelling, other than a dwelling located on the property where the leaf burning is being conducted – but not closer than 50 feet to any structure.
- Burning shall not be conducted closer than 50 feet to any structure and provisions shall be made to ensure that fire does not spread to closer than 50 feet of any structure.
- Burning shall not be conducted in roadside ditches, on any public or private road, nor in any public or private drainage facility.
- If burning is determined to be a nuisance and/or hazardous, extinguishment may be required.
- Burning shall be conducted in small piles (i.e., approximately three feet in diameter in a cleared area ten feet in diameter)
- Burning shall be attended constantly until fire is completely extinguished.
- Water, sand, dirt or fire extinguishers shall be available at the burn site in quantity sufficient to completely extinguish the fire. (A charged water hose, one that is connected to a water source, is preferred and rake(s) and shovel(s) should also be available to control burn pile.)
- Burning should not be conducted during windy and/or dry periods.
- Burning shall be prohibited on local, state and federal legal holidays, as well as
- Sundays, nor shall it occur between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.

--Open burning of tree, yard and garden trimmings that are collected by the County through regular roadside collections is prohibited.

--Between February 15 and April 30, State forest laws prohibit open burning before 4 p.m.

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--Open burning is permitted for campfires or other fires that are used solely for recreational purposes, for ceremonial occasions, for outdoor non-commercial preparation of food and for warming of outdoor workers. The public should contact the Department of Fire and Life Safety for guidance in these areas.

--Open burning for the disposal of household refuse by homeowners or tenants is prohibited.

--Open burning shall not occur in environmentally sensitive areas.

--Violators of open burning regulations are subject to fines. In addition, if a fire gets out of control, those responsible may be liable for damages.

For information on all other types of open burning, including permits for purposes of land clearing or bonfires, and other questions about open burning in York County, citizens should call the Department of Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600.

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